IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4, 13, 19, 34, 35, 46-49, 51, 52 and 59-61 are amended.

All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented user interface configuration method, for configuring a user interface of an application program and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of application program markers, each application program marker associated with one of the plurality of application programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one of the application programs;

storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating system marker indicating a user interaction with the operating system, the operating system markers including an indication of a number of currently opened application programs;

assigning weights to each of the plurality of application program markers and each of the plurality of operating system markers;

determining a weighted score as a function of a subset of the weighted operating system markers and a subset of the weighted application program markers;

determining a user proficiency level with respect to the user interface of the application program and the user interface of the operating system based upon the weighted score; and

automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises:

selecting at least one configuration option from a plurality of configuration options.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

enabling access to a functional user interface element;

disabling access to a functional user interface element; and

changing an appearance of a functional user interface element.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises:

providing a set of functions including:

enabling access to a command;

disabling access to a command;

changing an appearance of a command;

enabling access to a menu;

disabling access to a menu;

changing an appearance of a menu;

enabling access to a button;

disabling access to a button;

changing an appearance of a button;

enabling access to a shortcut; and

disabling access to a shortcut; and

selecting at least one of the provided functions to configure the functional component.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

outputting a notification of a change to user interface configuration.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

outputting a notification of at least one newly enabled user interface feature.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional component the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system are performed responsive to a trigger event.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises user input requesting user interface configuration.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises application startup.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises system startup.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises a change in user behavior with respect to the user interface.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event comprises user logon.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system are performed periodically.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the user proficiency level comprises reading a stored user proficiency level derived from at least one weighted marker.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the plurality of operating system markers further includes an indication of a historical usage of each user interface.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of operating system markers further includes an indication of whether an element of either user interface has been used.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of operating system markers further includes an indication of whether an element of the user interface of the operating system has been used a number of times exceeding a predetermined threshold.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of application program markers further includes an indication of a total amount of time spent by a user using at least one of the plurality of application programs.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of operating system markers further includes an indication of a historical average number of concurrently open application programs.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of operating system markers further includes an indication of how many windows are open concurrently.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of operating system markers further includes an indication of a historical average number of concurrently open windows.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of operating system markers further includes an indication of a user-specified preference indicating a proficiency level.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of application program markers includes an indication of web page visitation patterns.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of application program markers includes an indication of historical usage of secure web pages.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of application program markers includes an indication of historical usage of web pages having active content.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

determining the user proficiency level comprises determining the user proficiency level with respect to a user interface component less than the entire user interface of the operating system; and

automatically configuring the at least one functional component of ~~each~~ the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises automatically configuring the user interface component without altering the configuration of the remainder of the user interface.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

determining the user proficiency level comprises determining the user proficiency level with respect to a selected one of the plurality of application programs; and

automatically configuring at least one functional component of ~~each~~ the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises automatically configuring the user interface for the selected one of the plurality of application programs.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to user behavior with respect to either the application program user interface or the operating system user interface, storing a corresponding weighted marker;

and wherein determining the weighted score comprises reading the stored weighted marker.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the weighted marker is performed by a first application; and

reading the stored weighted marker is performed by a background process.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the weighted marker is performed by a first application; and

reading the stored weighted marker is performed by a second application different from the first application.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the weighted marker is performed by an operating system; and

reading the stored weighted marker is performed by the operating system.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein:

automatically configuring the at least one functional component of each user interface comprises modifying functional user interface elements that are supplied to the plurality of application programs and the operating system.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein:

storing the weighted marker is performed by an operating system; and

reading the stored weighted marker is performed by an application program.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the weighted score comprises retrieving a plurality of stored weighted markers and aggregating the retrieved markers.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accepting user input overriding a selected one user interface configuration and specifying a desired configuration; and

responsive to the user input, configuring the selected one user interface according to the desired configuration.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface comprises determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface of a web-resident application being run from a client machine; and

automatically configuring the at least one functional component of each user interface comprises automatically configuring at least one functional user interface element for the web-resident application.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for configuring a user interface of an application program and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer program code, encoded on the medium, which the code is

executed by the computer system, for:

storing a plurality of application program markers, each application program marker associated with one of the plurality of application programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one of the application programs;

storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating system marker indicating a user interaction with the operating system, the operating system markers including an indication of a number of currently opened application programs;

assigning weights to each of the plurality of application program markers and each of the plurality of operating system markers;

determining a weighted score as a function of a subset of the weighted operating system markers and a subset of the weighted application program markers;

determining a user proficiency level with respect to the user interface of the application program and the user interface of the operating system based upon the weighted score; and

automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises computer program code for:

selecting at least one configuration option from a plurality of configuration options.

48. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

computer program code for enabling access to a functional user interface element;

computer program code for disabling access to a functional user interface element; and

computer program code for changing an appearance of a functional user interface element.

49. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises:

computer program code for enabling access to a command;

computer program code for disabling access to a command;

computer program code for changing an appearance of a command;

computer program code for enabling access to a menu;

computer program code for disabling access to a menu;

computer program code for changing an appearance of a menu;

computer program code for enabling access to a button;

computer program code for disabling access to a button;

computer program code for changing an appearance of a button;

computer program code for enabling access to a shortcut; and

computer program code for disabling access to a shortcut.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application

program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises computer program code for performing the determining and configuring steps responsive to a trigger event.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises computer program code for performing the determining and configuring steps periodically.

53. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level comprises computer program code for reading a stored user proficiency level determined from at least one weighted marker.

54. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein:

the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level comprises computer program code for determining the user proficiency level with respect to a user interface component less than the entire user interface of the operating system; and

the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of each user interface comprises computer program code for automatically configuring the functional user

interface component without altering the configuration of the remainder of the user interface.

55. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein:

the computer program code for determining the user proficiency level comprises computer program code for determining the user proficiency level with respect to a selected one of the plurality of application programs; and

the computer program code for automatically configuring at least one functional component of each user interface comprises computer program code for automatically configuring the user interface for the selected one of the plurality of application programs.

56. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising:

computer program code for, responsive to user behavior with respect to either user interface, storing a corresponding weighted;

and wherein the computer program code for determining the weighted score comprises computer program code for reading the stored weighted marker.

57. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the computer program code for determining the weighted score comprises computer program code for retrieving a plurality of stored weighted markers and aggregating the retrieved markers to determine a proficiency level.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein:

the computer program code for determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface comprises computer program code for determining a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface of a web-resident application being run from a client machine; and

the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least one functional component of ~~each~~ the user interface of the application program and the at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system comprises computer program code for automatically configuring at least one functional user interface element for the web-resident application.

60. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring a user interface of a application program and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the system comprising:

means for storing a plurality of application markers, each application program marker associated with one of the plurality of application programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one of the application programs;

means for storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating system marker indicating a user interaction with the operating

system, the operating system markers including an indication of a number of currently opened application programs;

means executed by a computer system for assigning weights to each of the plurality of application program markers and each of the plurality of operating system markers;

means executed by the computer system for determining a weighted score as a function of a subset of the weighted operating system markers and a subset of the weighted application program markers;

means executed by the computer system, for determining a user proficiency level with respect to the user interface of the application program and the user interface of the operating system based upon the weighted score; and

means executed by the computer system, for automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.

61. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring a user interface of an application program and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the system comprising:

a marker storage device for,

storing a plurality of application program markers, each application program marker associated with one of the

plurality of application programs, and indicating a user interaction with the associated one of the application programs; and

storing a plurality of operating system markers, each operating system marker indicating a user interaction with the operating system, the operating system markers including an indication of a number of currently opened application programs;

a user proficiency level determiner, executed by the computer system and coupled to the marker storage device, for

assigning weights to each of the plurality of application program markers and each of the plurality of operating system markers;

determining a weighted score as a function of a subset of the weighted operating system markers and a subset of the weighted application program markers; and

determining a user proficiency level with respect to the user interface of the application program and the user interface of the operating system based at least in part upon the weighted score; and

a user interface configuration module, executed by the computer system and coupled to the user proficiency level determiner, for

automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and at least one

functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.

62. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user interface configuration module selects at least one configuration option from a plurality of configuration options.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user interface configuration module comprises program code for performing the functions of:

enabling access to a functional user interface element;

disabling access to a functional user interface element; and

changing an appearance of a functional user interface element; and

wherein the user interface configuration module selects at least one of the functions to configure the user interface of the software application and the user interface of the operating system.

64. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user interface configuration module comprises program code for performing the functions of:

enabling access to a command;

disabling access to a command;

changing an appearance of a command;

enabling access to a menu;

disabling access to a menu;

changing an appearance of a menu;

enabling access to a button;

disabling access to a button;

changing an appearance of a button;

enabling access to a shortcut; and

disabling access to a shortcut; and

wherein the user interface configuration module selects at least one of the functions to configure the user interface of the software application and the user interface of the operating system.

65. (Cancelled).

66. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level detector and the user interface configuration module operate responsive to a trigger event.

67. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level determiner and the user interface configuration module operate periodically.

68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level determiner reads a stored user proficiency level derived from at least one weighted marker.

69. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein:

the user proficiency level determiner determines the user proficiency level with respect to a user interface component less than the entire user interface of the operating system; and

the user interface configuration module automatically configures the at least one functional component of each user interface comprises

automatically configuring the functional component without altering the configuration of the remainder of the user interface.

70. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein:

the user proficiency level determiner determines the user proficiency level with respect to a selected one of the plurality of application programs; and

the user interface configuration module automatically configures the at least one functional component of the user interface for the selected one of the plurality of application programs.

71. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising:

a marker storage devicefor, responsive to user behavior with respect to either user interface, storing a corresponding weighted marker;

wherein the user proficiency level determiner reads the stored weighted marker from the marker storage device.

72. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level determiner retrieves a plurality of stored weighted markers and aggregates the retrieved markers to determine a weighted score.

73. (Cancelled).

74. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein:

the user proficiency level determiner determines a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface of a web-resident application being run from a client machine; and

the user interface configuration module automatically configures at least one functional user interface element for the web-resident application.

75. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented user interface configuration method, for configuring a user interface of an application program and a user interface of an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the method comprising:

determining a user proficiency level with respect to the user interface of the application program and user interface of the operating system based upon a number of application programs currently open, a historical average number of concurrently open applications, a number of windows currently open, and a historical average number of concurrently open windows; and

automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.

76. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented user interface configuration method, for configuring a user interface of an application program and a user interface of

an operating system of a computer system, the computer system including a plurality of application programs, the method comprising:

determining a user proficiency level with respect to the user interface of the application program and user interface of the operating system based upon at least two markers from a set of markers including a number of application programs currently open, a historical average number of concurrently open applications, a number of windows currently open, a historical average number of concurrently open windows, a number of times a user interface has been used, and a total amount of time spent by a user using an application; and

automatically configuring at least one functional component of the user interface of the application program and at least one functional component of the user interface of the operating system responsive to the user proficiency level.